

Owatonna City Council Minutes

The Owatonna City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Council President Schultz called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Attending were Council Members Raney, Voss, Okerberg, Dotson, Burbank and Schultz; Mayor Kuntz; City Attorney Walbran; Community Development Director Klecker; City Administrator Busse and Administrative Specialist Clawson. Council Member Svenby was not present.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council President advised Item 3.4.1, Purchase Agreement for 224 N Cedar Avenue would be removed from tonight's Agenda. Council Member Dotson made a motion to approve the agenda with this item removed; Council Member Voss seconded the motion and all members voted aye in approval.

Mayor Kuntz presented a Community Service Award for Federated Insurance Company and thanked the company and its employees for making Owatonna a stronger community. Federated Insurance has been an anchor in the downtown area for more than 100 years. Present to receive the award were Mike Kerr, Chief Operating Officer & Julie Rethemeier, Vice President, Director of Public Affairs and Advertising.

Mayor Kuntz welcomed Ecumen Hospice Owatonna as a new business in Owatonna. The company opened on Wednesday, January 17th at 634 Bridge Street. Beth Bartz, Manager of Clinical Operations and Laurie Jensen, Care Consultant were introduced. They explained they plan to offer services within a 50-mile radius of Owatonna and look forward to educating everyone about hospice services they offer. Council Member Schultz welcomed them to the community.

Council President Schultz explained Council Members review the Consent Agenda Items prior to the meeting for approval in one motion. Consent Agenda Items for approval include:

Minutes - City Council Meeting – January 8, 2019.

Minutes - Human Rights Commission – December 11, 2018.

Minutes - West Hills Commission Meeting – January 8, 2019.

Minutes - Airport Commission Meeting – December 18, 2018.

Minutes - Park & Rec Board Meeting – January 14, 2019.

Event Permit – Salt Sale – OHS Baseball – April 27, 2019.

Event Permit – Art in the Hills – Owatonna Arts Center – July 27 & 28, 2019.

Event Permit – Icicle Dive at Lake Kohlmier – Park & Rec – January 26, 2019.

Exempt Permit – Minnesota Pheasants – Raffle – March 21, 2019.

Change Order #2 – Kohlmier Drive & Trail Project – JJD Companies LLC.

2019 Crop Year Farm Lease Agreements for parcels not included in the bid process at \$225.00/acre:

Bob Cole: three parcels - 50 acres, 15 acres and 20 acres

Andy Michaletz: 13 acres (EDA land) and 8 acres

John Ihlenfeld: 24 acres

Paul Mass: 16 acres

Duane Schroeder: 20.5 acres

Bob Swedberg: 89 acres

David Janke: 6 acres (EDA land)

2019-2020 Crop Years Farm Lease Agreements for parcels in bid process at \$331.00/acre:

David Janke – 45 acres (airport land) and three parcels (EDA land): 76 acres, 13 acres and 16.5 acres

Lease – Parent Provider, Room 211(D) in Merrill Hall for \$384.00 until January 31, 2020.

2019 Facility Use Agreement – West Hills Social Commons - Owatonna Church of Christ.

Council Member Dotson made a motion to approve these Consent Agenda Items, Council Member Voss seconded the motion; all members present voted aye in approval.

Vice President Raney recapped the expenses for the period; bills presented for payment totaled \$642,967.58. Council Member Okerberg made a motion to approve payment of these bills; Council Member Burbank seconded the motion. All members voted aye for approval.

Fire Equipment Operator Ryan Seykora presented request from the Owatonna Fire Fighters Relief Association to increase retirement pension by \$350.00. This increase will be funded by receiving a 2% insurance premium funding from the State of Minnesota and investments within the association. Council Member Raney made a motion to approved Resolution 3-18 approving this pension increase, Council Member Voss seconded the motion; all members voted aye for approval.

Fire Equipment Operator Ryan Seykora requested an amendment to the Owatonna Fire Fighters Relief Association By-Laws. The notice period for application of retirement benefits would change from a minimum six-month period to a minimum two-month period as approved by the association during their last meeting. Council Member Dotson made a motion to approve Resolution 4-19 approving this amendment to the associations By-Laws, Council Member Burbank seconded the motion; all members voted aye in approval. Council Member Raney thanked Seykora and all of the City's Fire Staff for their service to the community.

Public Works Director Skov presented the Feasibility Report for the 2019 Street and Utility Project. Areas included in the project are:

- West Hills Tennis Center Parking Lot
- 22nd Street NE - Hemlock Ave to the East
- Holly - Butternut to Linn
- 3th Street NE – 3rd Avenue to St Paul Road
- North Street West- Sate Avenue to the West
- Lewis Drive NW – 24th Avenue to the West
- LEC Parking Lot

Total costs are currently estimated at \$1,112,944.70 with an estimated amount of assessments at \$362,880.44. A neighborhood meeting is planned for Tuesday, February 12th. Council Member Raney made a motion to approve Resolution 5-19, accepting this project report and setting a public hearing on Tuesday, February 19th. Council Member Dotson seconded the motion and all members voted aye in approval.

Public Works Director Skov presented the Feasibility Report for the 2019 Curb and Gutter Project on Timber Ridge Lane North of White Oak Lane. Total costs are currently estimated at \$291,075 which will be assessed 100% to the property owners as this project was petitioned by the property owners. A neighborhood meeting is planned for Tuesday, February 12th. Council Member Okerberg made a motion approve Resolution 6-19 accepting this project report and set a public hearing on Tuesday, February 19th. Council Member Burbank seconded the motion and all members voted aye in approval.

Public Works Director Skov presented the Feasibility Report for the 2019 Concrete Streets Project. The project involves reconstruction of 21st Avenue NW from Park Drive to Hoffman Drive and 28th Avenue NW from Park Drive to Hoffman Drive. Total costs are currently estimated at \$963,155.78 with an estimated amount of assessments at \$191,991.80. A neighborhood meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12th. Council Member Raney made a motion to approve Resolution 7-19, accepting this project report and setting a public hearing on Tuesday, February 19th. Council Member Dotson seconded the motion and all members voted aye in approval.

During Staff Comments, Interim Park Director Klecker advised ice skating is now available at Morehouse Park; currently, no skating on the river but may be possible after a few consecutive cold days to set the ice. The Park and Rec Department will hold host a public meeting next Thursday, January 31st for the Master Plan and a Neighborhood Meeting on Monday, February 4th for the soccer fields on the former Naas Property. The recent warm weather has required cancellation or rescheduling several events planned for Park and Rec's Bold & Cold Weekend so be sure to check for current plans on the City's website.

Public Works Director Skov advised the Street Crew worked Saturday clearing snow and in Monday (Martin Luther King Day) to salt slippery spots. Engineering Staff is completing plans for the 2019 improvement projects.

During Public Comments, Roger Wacek, 464 Vine Street asked Council eliminate special assessments as he believes assessments are unconstitutional road and sidewalk maintenance fees. During 2017, the City of St Paul lost a legal challenge regarding road maintenance fees; the Minnesota Supreme Court ruled the fees were taxes and required to follow constitutional requirements on taxation. He suggested the City revise their current Special Assessment Policy. City Administrator Busse explained the costs in this St Paul Case were for maintenance items and not improvement costs. Our City Assessment Policy is compliant with Minnesota Statue 429 as required for improvement repairs.

Council Member Voss reminded everyone to drive safely on the icy/snowy roads. Allow more than 10 feet when following a vehicle so you will have plenty of space to stop if needed.

At 7:40 p.m., Council Member Raney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Dotson seconded the motion, all members voted aye and the meeting adjourned.

Dated: January 29, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Clawson, Administrative Specialist